

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9956
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14998

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, UK
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI TO VISIT UK

REF: ROME 13636

1. IN STRICT CONFIDENCE BRITISH EMBOFF HAS INFORMED US THAT SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) SECRETARY CRAXI HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE IDEA OF A WORKING VISIT TO ENGLAND. THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY HAS SUGGESTED THAT CRAXI ATTEND ITS ANNUAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD SEP 27-28. CRAXI WOULD PREFER MORE OF A WORKING VISIT THAN ATTENDANCE AT THE CONGRESS WOULD PERMIT, AND HE HAS SUGGESTED DATES OF OCTOBER 7-8 FOR A VISIT TO LONDON. THESE DATES, HOWEVER, ARE INCONVENIENT FOR CRAXI'S LABOR PARTY INTERLOCUTORS. IN TALKS WITH BRITISH EMBASSY ABOUT VISIT, CRAXI HAS STRONGLY INDICATED THAT HE WISHES TO HAVE MAXIMUM EXPOSURE TO LABOR PARTY LEADERS WHICH WILL PERMIT GOOD PRESS COVERAGE. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS MEETING WITH CRAXI SEPTEMBER 14 TO TRY TO WORK OUT DETAILS ON TIMING OF THE VISIT.

2. SOURCE SAID THAT BRITISH ARE STILL PURSUING IDEA OF A ZACCAGNINI VISIT TO THE UK BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. NOW THAT ZACCAGNINI HAS ENDED HIS SUMMER VACATION AND HAS RETURNED
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TO ROME, THE BRITISH HOPE TO GET AN EARLY ANSWER TO THEIR

INVITATION.

3. FINALLY, EMBOFF NOTED THAT HIS AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN CALLED BACK TO LONDON WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND ABOUT ITALY. THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO ROME CONVINCED THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN DISPELLING SOME FUZZY THINKING ABOUT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) HELD BY CROSLAND. A PRIVATE LETTER FROM CROSLAND TO THE AMBASSADOR, WHICH WAS SHOWN TO US, CONFIRMS THAT CROSLAND WAS IMPRESSED BY THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT FOR THE NEED TO AVOID ANY STEPS WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS BRITISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA OF THE PCI ENTERING AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. BEAUDRY

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